

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 21, 2005, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 148 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1-35, 45-61, 73-79, 89-105, 117-129, and 141-148 are currently under examination. Claims 36-44, 62-72, 80-88, 106-116, and 130-140 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 1-21, 23, 24, 27-35, 45-56, 59-61, 73-79, 89-100, 103-105, 117-125, 141-144, and 146 stand rejected. Claims 22, 25, 26, 57, 58, 101, 102, 126-129, 145, 147, and 148 have been objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but the indication of allowable subject matter in such claims is noted with appreciation. Applicants have amended claims 1-17, 21, 23, 26-29, 49, 52, 54, 58, 73, 76, 77, 93, 101, 117, 122-123, 125, 128-129, 142, and 147-148, cancelled claims 20, 22, 25, 56, 57, 100, 102, 120-121, and 126-127, added new claims 149 and 150, and respectfully request reconsideration of the application as amended herein.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejections

Anticipation Rejection Based on U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0141016 to Okase et al.

Claims 1-21, 23, 24, 27, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Okase et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0141016). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Claim 22 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but is indicated to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in appropriate independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 22. Consequently, it is believed that claim 1, as amended herein, is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-21, 23, 24, 27 and 28 are each allowable, among other reasons, as depending from claim 1 which should be allowed.

Anticipation Rejection Based on U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0141016 to Okase et al.

Claims 29-31, 33-35, 45-56, and 59-61 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Okase et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0141016). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Claim 57 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but is indicated to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in appropriate independent form. Claim 29 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 57. Consequently, it is believed that claim 29, as amended herein, is in condition for allowance.

Claims 30-31, 33-35, 45-55, and 59-61 are each allowable, among other reasons, as depending from claim 29 which should be allowed.

Claim 56 has been cancelled.

Anticipation Rejection Based on U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0141016 to Okase et al.

Claims 73-75, 77-79, 89-100, and 103-105 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Okase et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0141016). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Claim 102 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but is indicated to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in appropriate independent form. Claim 73 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 102. Consequently, it is believed that claim 73, as amended herein, is in condition for allowance.

Claims 74-75, 77-79, 89-99, and 103-105 are each allowable, among other reasons, as depending from claim 73 which should be allowed.

Claim 100 has been cancelled.

Anticipation Rejection Based on U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0164225 to Sawayama et al.

Claims 29 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sawayama et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0164225). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Claim 57 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but is indicated to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in appropriate independent form. Claim 29 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 57. Consequently, it is believed that claim 29, as amended herein, is in condition for allowance.

Claim 32 is allowable, among other reasons, as depending from claim 29 which should be allowed.

Anticipation Rejection Based on U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0164225 to Sawayama et al.

Claims 73 and 76 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sawayama et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0164225). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Claim 73 has been amended to incorporate the subject material of claim 102, indicated to be allowable.

Claim 76 is allowable, among other reasons, as depending from claim 73 which should be allowed.

Anticipation Rejection Based on U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0164225 to Sawayama et al.

Claims 117-124, 141, and 146 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sawayama et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0164225). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Claim 127 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but is indicated to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in appropriate independent form. Claim 117 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 127. Consequently, it is believed that claim 117, as amended herein, is in condition for allowance.

Claims 118-119, 122-124, 141, and 146 are each allowable, among other reasons, as depending from claim 117 which should be allowed.

Claims 120-121 have been cancelled

Anticipation Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. RE36,925 to Ohba et al.

Claims 117, 121, 125, and 141-144 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohba et al. (U.S. Patent No. RE36,925). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Claim 117 has been amended to incorporate the subject material of claim 127, indicated to be allowable.

Claims 125 and 141-144 are each allowable, among other reasons, as depending from claim 117 which should be allowed.

Claim 121 has been cancelled

Objections to Claims/Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 22, 25, 26, 57, 58, 101, 102, 126-129, 145, 147, and 148 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but are indicated to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in appropriate independent form. New claim 149 comprises the subject matter of claim 25 amended to independent form, including all of the limitations of base claim 1 prior to the present amendments thereto. New claim 150 comprises the subject matter of claim 126 amended to independent form, including all of the limitations of base claim 117 prior to the present amendments thereto.

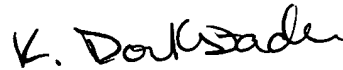
ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The amendments to claims 1-17, 21, 23, 26-29, 49, 52, 54, 58, 73, 76, 77, 93, 101, 117, 122-123, 125, 128-129, 142, and 147-148 above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-19, 21, 23, 24, 26-55, 58-99, 101, 103-119, 122-125, and 128-150 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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